

An Inspired Journey

NATALIE ARGUETA '17, a psychology and sociology major, worked in the Stacks Management department of the Du Bois Library for three years, re-shelving, shifting, sorting, and pulling books, assisting patrons, and supervising the work of other students. She graduated in December and will walk with her class during commencement this May. In the meantime, she is working full-time in a temporary position in Access Services during the spring semester.

When asked to describe herself, Natalie says, "I am very passionate! I get it from my mom; she's a little fireball." Then she laughs and continues, "This is both good and bad. I get either very angry or very excited!"

Natalie is from Culver City, CA, in Los Angeles County. Her parents came to America from El Salvador. She has two siblings and a grey and white cat, Angel, whom she cannot wait to see again, "When I left for college, I told him, 'Four years!'" Natalie is trilingual in English, Spanish, and Italian.

When investigating colleges she picked up a UMass Amherst pamphlet that featured a photo of Old Chapel in the autumn and thought, "OMG! That looks awesome! In California, the leaves go from green, to brown, to off. I had a gut feeling about UMass, the place just felt right."

The summer before sophomore year, a classmate who worked at the Library told her that it was a great place. Natalie found this to be true, reflecting that she'd made friends with staff and

librarians. "We talk about so many things – art, golf, music."

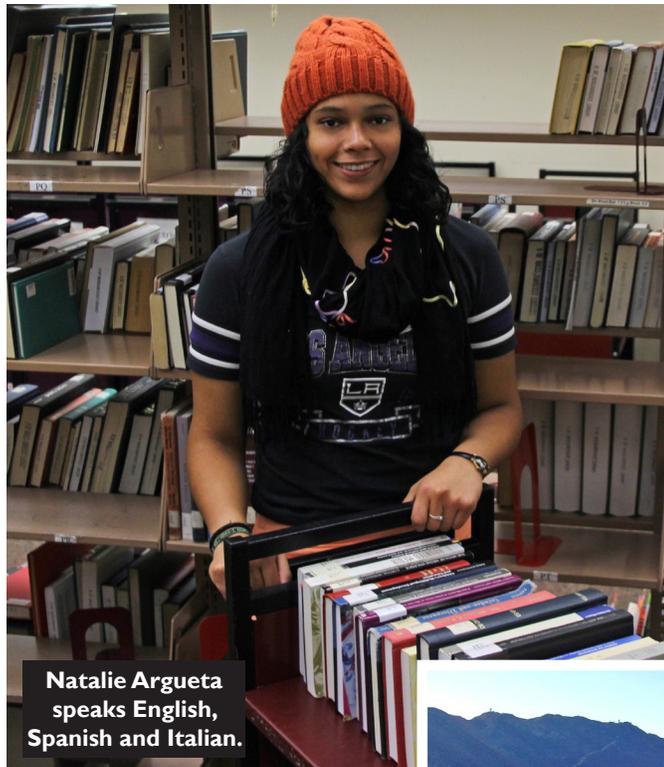
On the subject of music, Natalie confesses that she is "a real 'fan girl'" of the Beatles. During a recent road

who grew up in a completely different era from my own. My interactions with them are eye-opening and inspiring."

As a little girl, Natalie would tag along with her mother, who worked in a nursing home, and she believes that her academic interests and her volunteer work are a natural extension of this time, saying, "It fills a void in me. It became my passion."

Eventually she will return to California to continue her academic career in the field of geropsychology, ultimately teaching and researching socialization and quality of life in nursing homes.

—A.K.



Natalie Argueta speaks English, Spanish and Italian.

trip, she listened to 10 Beatles discs in a row. "I love them because their music has so many different moods."

Natalie volunteers as an activities assistant at the Center for Extended Care at Amherst, in the Dharma Unit, working with people who have Alzheimer's and dementia. She visits with the residents, chatting, watching television, doing arts and crafts. In the spring and summer they visit the gardens on the premises. "These are people



Natalie at work (center) and on a hike near Los Angeles, California (above).